

Tie Thursdays



Greenbriar Elementary is Making it Happen!



OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

*Tie Thursday was an idea created by first year Assistant Principal, Carl Blythe, to help young men look and feel better. Blythe says, "I brought Tie Thursday here to really boost the confidence and self-esteem of our students." And it's working. Just tying on a tie, or at least giving it their best effort, has changed our students outside and inside. When asked why he's wearing a tie today, "Because I just want to look great and be successful today," said 3rd grader Benedict Morakinyo. It's a simple idea that's created a new culture in our classrooms. **Our discipline data shows that we have not had any males that have been referred on Tie Thursdays.** Tie Thursday is something the kids look forward to now. And even for those who can't afford ties, it's not a problem. Blythe put out the call for donations on social media and ties came from the east and west coasts. We received donations from the district, friends, and church members. Once the ladies heard about it, they wanted their own day too. We want to continue this initiative into next year. The guys had a "night out" in December and it was attended by over 200+ kids and parents. We have scheduled a Ladies Night Out in late April and a Guys Night Out in May. In order to participate, the students must "dress for success" a minimum of 12/14 weeks for this 2nd semester in order to receive an invite. The J. Everett Light Career Center provided volunteers to give haircuts for Guys Night Out and will be volunteering for Ladies Night Out in April. We want to continue to include the community and parents as much as possible.*

See our story from the IndyStar [HERE](#).

WE ARE The Metropolitan School District of Washington Township (MSDWT) is located in the northern section of Indianapolis, Indiana and Marion County. It is a dynamic community with broad diversity in cultures, religions, ethnic groups, races and socio-economic levels. MSDWT has been an educational leader in Indiana for the past forty years. MSDWT currently has 11,357 students enrolled with 1,639 staff. Greenbriar Elementary has a current enrollment of 810 students with approximately 87% free and reduced lunch.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES We have approximately 300 ENL learners at Greenbriar (37%). We have a variety of language spoken including Spanish, Arabic, French, Tigrinya, Karenni and Creole.

OUR TEACHERS We have 2 ENL teachers, 1 PT coach and 4 assistants that support those teachers. Classroom teachers have received a variety of training in working with ENL learners from our school and district coaches.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

We began Tie Thursday during our first semester this school year. We had a huge success. It is important for us to help build committed, balanced, principled and risk taking students who are able to handle challenges as they grow. We want to create life-long learners and be role models for students who will one day enter the work force. This can have a life-long effect on our students as we work towards helping them become respectful citizens. If it's important to our students, then it's important to us!

3rd grader Kholson Gilliland says, "I feel more respectable for myself, I feel responsible, and I feel more successful."

For more information about our school or corporation, email jalexander@msdwt.k12.in.us or visit our website <http://gb.msdwt.k12.in.us/>